

CLASSIFICATION

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CIA/WHSS

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

25X1

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SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
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ITEM NO: WH-7

DATE: 19 JUL 74

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN AND THE US NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE

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THE RULER OF BAHRAIN TOLD AMBASSADOR TWINAM TODAY THAT HE WANTED TO GIVE THE AMBASSADOR REASSURANCE THAT THE US NAVY'S MIDDLE EAST FORCE WILL BE REMAINING IN BAHRAIN. THE RULER DID NOT AMPLIFY HIS REMARK. SIMILAR REASSURING STATEMENTS HAVE COME FROM THE RULER IN THE PAST TEN DAYS, AND INFORMATION COMING TODAY FROM SAUDI PRINCE FAHD ADDS WEIGHT TO THE RULER'S STATEMENT.

PRINCE FAHD INFORMED AMBASSADOR AKINS THAT A BAHRAINI REVERSAL OF ITS OCTOBER 20, 1973 DECISION TO TERMINATE THE NAVY'S STATIONING AGREEMENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON. FAHD SAID, HOWEVER, THAT BAHRAIN WILL INSIST ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

--THAT NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN THE BAHRAINI REVERSAL;

DATE:

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UNIT:

EXT: State Department review completed

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--THAT THE US LEASE FEE BE RAISED TO ABOUT \$3 MILLION ANNUALLY;

--THAT THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT BE RENEGOTIATED.

WE HAVE BEEN AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT THE BAHRAINIS ARE INTERESTED IN A NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT AND IN CHANGES IN JURISDICTION OVER US PERSONNEL. THE LIKELIHOOD THAT A BAHRAINI DECISION TO PERMIT MIDEASTFOR TO REMAIN CAN BE KEPT QUIET FOR VERY LONG IS NIL, HOWEVER.

THE POSSIBILITY OF A STRONG ADVERSE REACTION BY BAHRAIN'S LARGE LEFTIST COMMUNITY IS SOMEWHAT REDUCED BY THE SUMMER HOLIDAY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND RECENT ARRESTS OF MOST OF THE LEADERS OF THE RADICAL NATIONAL FRONT OF BAHRAIN.

AMBASSADOR TWINAM TOLD THE RULER THAT HE WOULD NOW EXPECT A CALL FROM THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN MINISTER INITIATING A DISCUSSION OF THOSE PARTS OF THE STATIONING AGREEMENT ABOUT WHICH THE BAHRAINIS HAVE INDICATED THEIR UNHAPPINESS.

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